

Dear Dr. Henney,

Jan. 17, 2000

I urge you, as Commissioner of the FDA to follow the European Union's lead and move immediately to ban animal uses of growth-promoting antibiotics used in human medicine.

Overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock has been linked to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases. Many of the drugs used to enhance growth in chickens, pigs, and cattle are the same as, or closely related to, those used to treat people.

The Europeans have acted wisely well ahead of us. Fearing a rise in untreatable infectious diseases, the European Union has banned all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics used in human medicine. In the United States, however, our FDA has taken no action against drugs currently in use. Instead, it has begun on an ineffective program of a series of meetings to discuss possible restrictions on new approvals of antibiotics. This is woefully short of what is needed.

Sincerely,

Jean P. Patterson

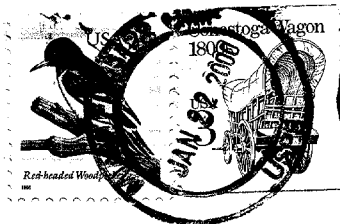
Jean P. Patterson

99P-0485

C2490



Ms. Jean P. Patterson
P.O. Box 25216 Dept. 76020
Miami FL 33102-5216



Ms. Jane Henney, M. D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

